Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00828 111325Z

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TAGS: BEXP, BMEP, GR

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM -- PROGRESS REPORT

REF: A) ATHENS 8651 B) THESS A-28 OF 7/9/74

- 1. NEW PRESIDENT OF THESSALONIKI SEWER ORGANIZATION PROF. GEORGE NITSIOTAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING FURTHER DETAILS ON STATUS OF LOCAL SEWER PROJECT DURING CALL BY CONGEN OFFICER DECEMBER 10.
- 2. NITSIOTAS CONFIRMED THAT VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON PROJECT UNDER MILITARY REGIME AND NEW BOARD HAS INHERITED "ZERO" ORGANIZATION. CURRENT TREASURY CONTAINS ABOUT \$5 MILLION FROM 3 PERCENT TAX SURCHARGE ON LOCAL REAL ESTATE FROM 1970-74. OF THIS AMOUNT, \$500,000 NEEDED FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING INADEQUATE SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM. \$1.3 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR UNSPECIFIED MINOR PROJECTS AND BALANCE BEING HELD FOR AMORTIZATION ON POSSIBLE NEW LOAN.
- 3. NITSIOTAS NOTED THAT MAJOR CONCERN OF ORGANIZATION DURING 1975 WILL BE RECRUITMENT OF ADEQUATE ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00828 111325Z

AND ENGINEERING STAFF. (LOCAL PAPERS NOW CARRY AD FOR 12

CLERICAL POSITIONS.)

- 4. COMMENTING ON IBRD MISSION (REF A) NITSIOTAS REPORTED PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION RE IBRD FINANCING OF PARTIAL COSTS FOR \$60 MILLION CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST PHASE 36 KILOMETER SEWAGE NETWORK. SPECIFICALLY, BANK REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING \$27 MILLION LOAN COVERING HARD CURRENCY COSTS WITH REMAINING \$33 MILLION TO BE PROVIDED BY GOG. IBRD DECISION WILL DEPEND ON PRESENTATION OF DETAILED FEAS-IBILITY STUDIES FOR OVERALL 600 KILOMETER PROJECT ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN \$130-150 MILLION AND ALLOCATION OF COUNTERPART FUNDS BY GOG. ALTHOUGH PROJECT HAS SUPPORT FROM MINISTERS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND NORTHERN GREECE, NITSIOTAS SCEPTICAL THAT GOG FUNDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN LIGHT OF OTHER GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND NUMBER OF PENDING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.
- 5. IN CONCLUSION, NITSIOTAS CONFIRMED THAT PROJECT IS IN VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE WITHOUT STAFF TO EVALUATE PROJECTS FOR US TECHNICAL SURVEYS OR EQUIPMENT. SEWER ORGANIZATION WILL NOTIFY CONGEN LATER WHEN SUCH INFORMATION DESIRED.
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